

COMMITTEE CONCERNING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES MEETING MINUTES

City of Middletown

61 Durant Terrace – Recreation/Community Service Building

May 5, 2015

6:00 PM

1. Members Present: Marty Knight/Chairperson, Elderrean Paules, August DeFrance, Keith Vinci, Marie Hurley, Phil Cacciola and Joseph Carta (via phone)

Absent: Richard Pelletier, Karen Nocera, Sky Biney

Staff Present: Debbie Stanley, Acting Director, Recreation/Community Services

General Public:

2. Meeting Called to Order: Called to order at 6:00pm.

3. Public Hearing:

4. Approval of Minutes: *A motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 7, 2015, was made by Marie Hurley and seconded by August DeFrance. The motion was passed.*

Departmental Reports:

- August DeFrance stated that the Eckersley Hall building committee meetings have been incredibly short. They have been paying bills and discussing outside equipment. A discussion ensued.
- Marie Hurley stated that the Mattabassett project is moving forward. The force main is on its way up to Cromwell. They are working on getting accurate information about this project prior to opening up the bid process. A discussion ensued.
- Elderrean Paules stated that all of the units at Monarca Place are filled and that all is good.
- Joseph Carta stated that we still haven't resolved the door issue at River's Edge Condominiums. Keith Vinci asked if anyone has checked with the Condominium Association. Joseph stated that there is a monthly meeting being held at River's Edge Condominium Association tomorrow, May 6, 2015. Keith asked if we can get the date for the next Condominium Association meeting. He stated that they are held the first Wednesday of each month. Joseph stated that his friend will be attending the meeting and will forward information to the CCPD. A discussion ensued.
- Deb Stanley reported that we had a very successful Senior Services Expo. There were about 500 people that came through the building. There were 50 different vendors. We had to turn vendors away because there was no more room to accommodate them. Manager Ann Gregg did a phenomenal job as well as the rest of the staff. We offered a free continental breakfast and lunch. Marty stated that the Lion's Club did about 20 low vision screenings. The Recreation Department Unified Theatre was busy doing a couple of 15 mins skits at various locations. A discussion ensued.
- Marty Knight mentioned the door issue at River's Edge Condo Assoc. The first letter that was sent to Office of Protection and Advocacy stated that there was an issue with a drag/vacuum effect on the inside door. The most recent letter was sent to Fair Housing Office and was cc'd to Elanah Sherman of Office of Protection and Advocacy as well as the Condo Association. Elanah Sherman called Marty and Laura stating that she had no idea that there was an issue pertaining to drag/vacuum. The original letter clearly states that there is a drag/vacuum issue. Elanah spoke to Deb Stanley and reiterated that the woman that is complaining does not want to come forward and be revealed. Elanah also stated to Deb that the drag/vacuum issue is not an ADA issue. Elanah

clearly stated to Marty that it was absolutely an ADA issue. Keith Vinci wants to know how we move forward with this situation. A discussion ensued.

Old Business

New Business:

Miscellaneous:

- Marty stated that because of a prior commitment he was unable to listen to the Common Counsel meeting to find out the status of the appointments. Phil stated that Lisa Santangelo asked him if they should re-appoint Steve Shapiro and Phil said no. He is hoping that someone will come forward in the future. Marty stated that Sky Biney – Youth in Government never showed to a single meeting. A discussion ensued.
- Keith Vinci stated that he read an article in the Middletown Press stating that they are tearing up Main Street to re-pave it. This is causing complaints by business owners and patrons alike. This is an issue for those visually impaired. There was a discussion about a list that was being generated for those with disabilities so that they can be contacted with pertinent information. This list was worked on for 6 months and then was not followed through because of many different issues. A discussion ensued.

Adjournment: A motion of adjournment was made by August DeFrance and was seconded by Marie Hurley. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 6:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura Bruni Runte